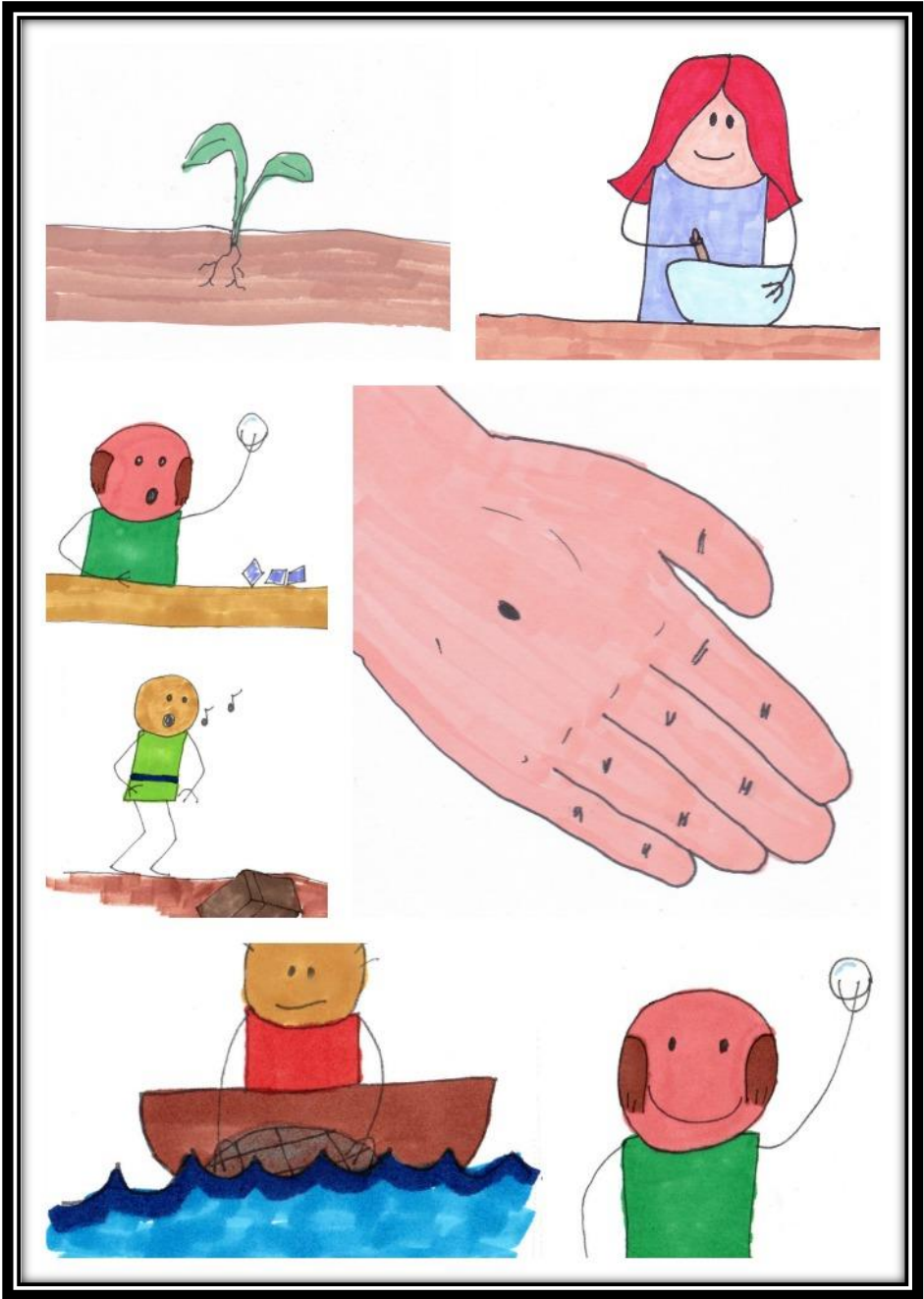
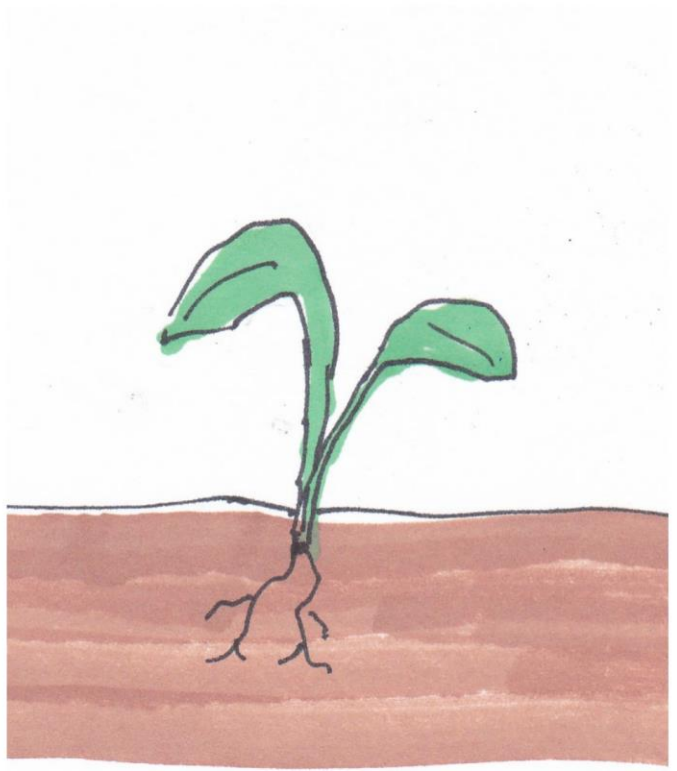
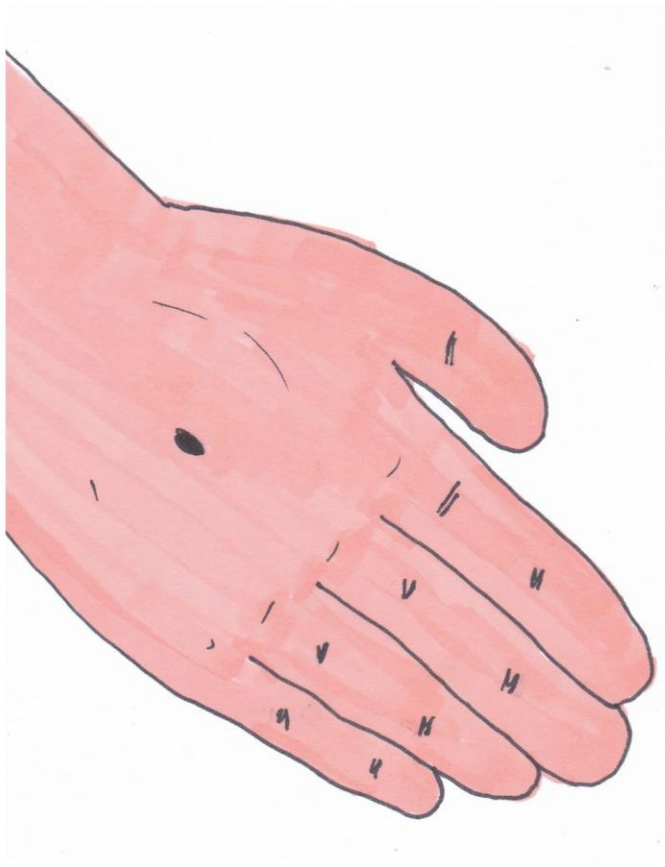


Parables of Heaven

Matthew 13:31-52





Jesus told the people many stories about heaven.

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest seed to be found, but when it grows up it is huge. The mustard seed grows into a tree and many birds nest there.

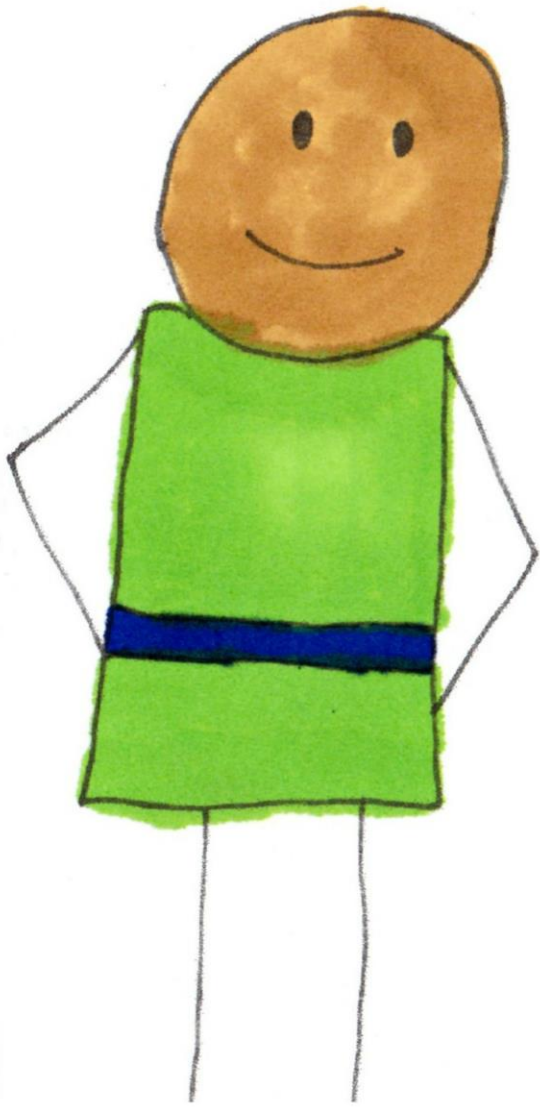
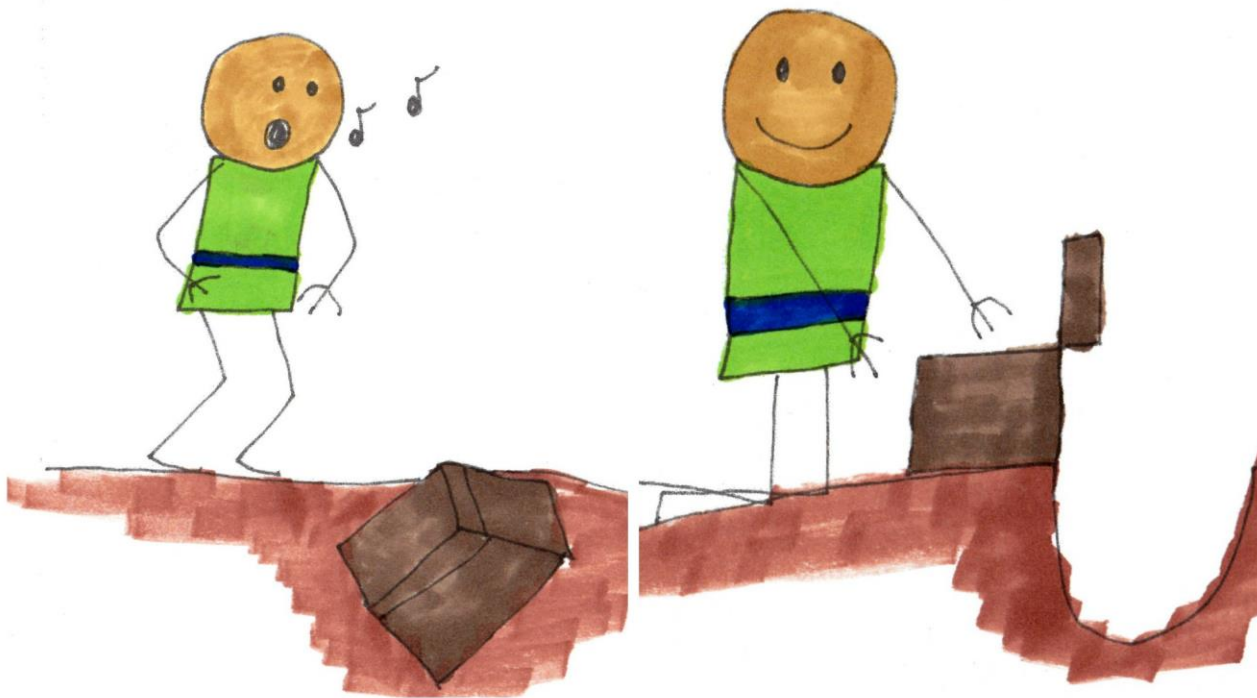


The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast added to dough. It is small and worked into the flour, but it grows and soon the dough is larger than it started.

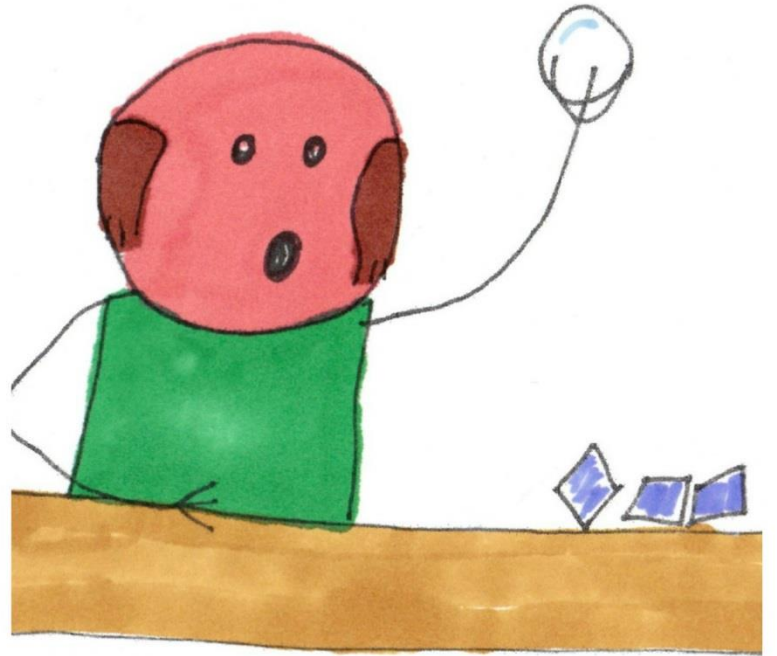


Heaven is like a net full of fish. The fishermen go through and throw out all of the bad fish, only keeping the good ones.

Likewise the angels separate the wicked from the righteous.”



“Heaven is like a treasure a man finds in a field.
After he has found it he will sell everything he owns
to buy the field.”



“Heaven is like a pearl. A merchant finds a pearl of magnificent value, and he goes and sells all he has to buy it.”

Jesus looked around the crowd, “Do you understand what I have taught you?”

The crowd answered back with a resounding yell, “Yes! We understand!”

Jesus smiled at their response. He taught this way because God said Jesus would. Long before Jesus was born Asaph said, “He will teach in parables.”

Questions

Younger Kids

1. What is something Jesus compared heaven to?
2. What did this story teach you about heaven?
3. What do you think heaven is like?

Middle Kids

1. I see two types of parables here: warnings of what will happen and the true worth of heaven. Which parable is which type?
2. Write down the attributes of the Kingdom of Heaven from this story.
3. What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

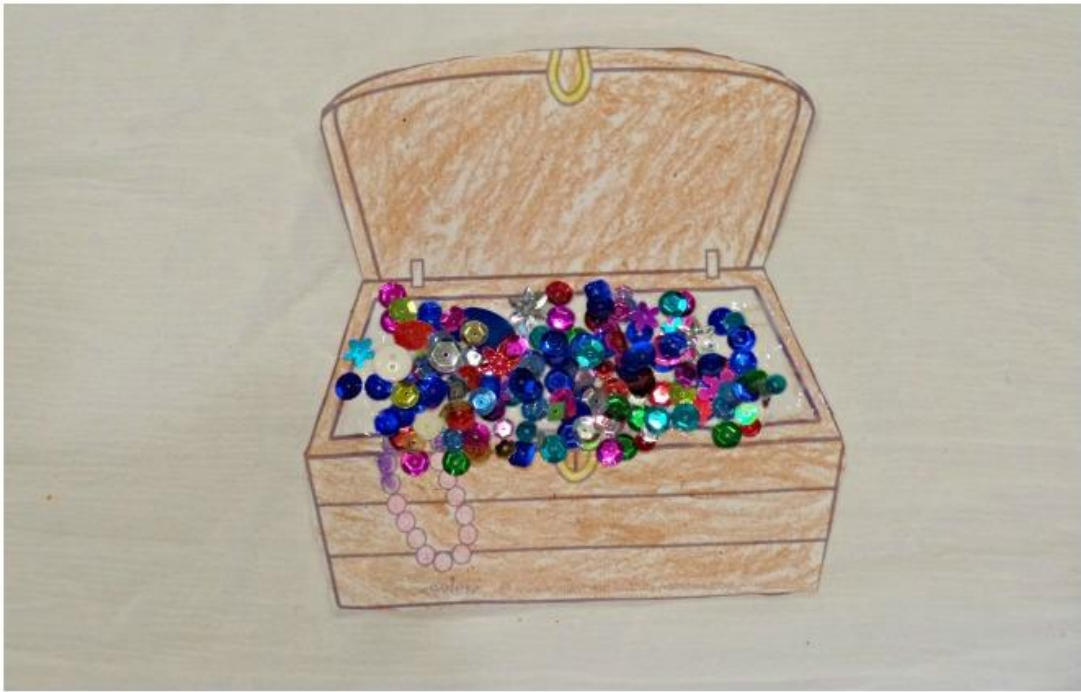
Older Guys

1. Read Matthew 13:32 and Daniel 4:10-12 and 21-23. What did Daniel say about the tree? What similarities are there to that king and God? What differences?
2. Who is Asaph? Read 2 Chronicles 29:30.
3. Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 47-50. What do both of these stories teach?

Activities

1. Decorate a pot to grow a seed.
2. Have a treasure hunt.
3. Decorate a treasure chest with sequins. (You can use this one: <http://coolest-free-printables.com/2013/02/03/blank-printable-treasure-chest/>)
4. Make a pearl.
5. Compare seed sizes.







Online

1. Parable of the pearl, poem to go with-
<http://www.just4kidsmagazine.com/rainbowcastle/pearl.html>
2. Story of the Blind Men and the Elephant (great to explain these parables as a group)-
http://www.noogenesis.com/pineapple/blind_men_elephant.html
3. Parable of the Pearl craft- <http://www.jesus-without-language.net/parable-of-the-pearl-matthew-13-make/>
4. Parable of the Mustard seed activity-
<http://www.proverbialhomemaker.com/the-mustard-seed-day-12-matthew-bible-lego-challenge.html>

Skit for the Great Treasure

Players: Narrator, bread maker, treasure finder, pearl finder, fisherman, Seed to tree

Narrator: One day Jesus sat down and began to teach the people. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest seed, but it grows into a great tree."

Seed: (starts out in small ball) Grow, grow, grow, grow, now I'll do great things! (ends standing up as tall as they can)

Narrator: The kingdom of heaven is like yeast. Only a little bit worked into the flour and it grows into a great loaf of bread when cooked.

Baker: (stirring small bowl) This bread will be enough to feed many people thanks to the teaspoon of yeast I added

Narrator: The kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure.

Treasure hunter: (tripping over box) What's this?
A great treasure, I must go buy this land.

Narrator: The man who finds it will rebury it and go sell all he owns to get this treasure.

Narrator: The kingdom of heaven is like a great pearl.

Jeweler: What is this? Oh my goodness this pearl is huge! I must get it.

Narrator: He will sell all he owns to gain this pearl.

Jeweler: It's ALL for sale, take it all. I have enough to get my pearl!

Narrator: Heaven is like a net full of fish. The fishermen go through and throw out the bad fish and only keep the good fish.

Fisherman: Good fish, good fish, bad fish, bad fish, bad fish, good fish. Why this is a good catch.

Narrator: When he had finished telling these stories he asked the crowd, “Do you understand?”
The crowd answered back:

All the actors: Yes we understand!

Narrator: Jesus smiled at their response. He taught this way because God said Jesus would. Long before Jesus was born Asaph said, “He will teach in parables.”